

West Caldwell Township
Water Utility
30 Clinton Road
West Caldwell, NJ 07006



Your tap water makes the grade for the year 2024!

West Caldwell's Drinking Water News

Water is an important element in our lives. Did you know that water makes up 65% of our bodies? Health experts recommend that we drink eight glasses of water a day. Safe, clean water is essential to our wellbeing. That's why we want you to know that our water meets – and often surpasses – all health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The West Caldwell Water Utility is dedicated to providing you and your family with water that is safe and healthful.

The West Caldwell Water Utility purchases our water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Last year, West Caldwell and the Passaic Valley Water Commission regularly collected and tested water samples to assure your water met all safety standards; and we're proud to let you know that it did. All the test results are on file with the NJDEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our State. In all cases, our water was as good as – or better than – the government requirements.

The EPA and NJDEP establish drinking water regulations. They also require water suppliers to make available Drinking Water Quality Reports to customers on an annual basis. This Drinking Water Quality Report provides important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully, and feel free to call us at 973-226-2300 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. Or you can call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. In addition, you may attend the West Caldwell Township Council Public Meeting, which begin at 7:15pm. All meetings are open to the public. Schedules of the Council meetings can be obtained from the Office of the Township Clerk or visiting the Township calendar.

Water Quality Table

During 2022, your water met or surpassed all standards for safety.

The water quality table shows how the quality of your drinking water compares to the standards set by the EPA and the NJDEP, as outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). When standards differed the more stringent standard was used for the MCL.

2023 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Contaminants

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	Source of Substance	Violation?
2023 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Contaminants						
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Treatment Technique (TT) = 1NTU	Highest Level Detected Range (Low-High)		Soil run-off	No
			0.121 (0.028 - 0.121)	0.66 (0.03 - 0.66)		
	NA	TT=% of sample <0.3 NTU (Min 95%)	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits			
			100%	99.96%		
<i>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.</i>						
Total Organic Carbon (%)	NA	TT=% Removal or Removal Ratio	% Removal	Removal Ratio	Naturally present in the environment.	No
			46.4 - 81.4 (25 - 45 required)	(0.9 – 1.3)		
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.016 - 0.018	0.00961	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	<0.05 - 0.06	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	0.05 – 0.06	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.82 (0.62 – 1.82)	ND – 0.267	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	ND (2023 Data)	1.5 (2023 Data)	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	0	14*	5.52 Highest running Annual Average (3.27 – 6.95)	<3.63	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	0	13*	7.99 Highest running annual average (4.6 – 19.96)	4.38**	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No

*MCL created by the state of New Jersey. Currently there is no federal MCL for perfluorinated compounds.

**These values are taken from NJ Drinking Water Watch.

PRIMARY

Compliance

MCLG

MCL

Distribution Systems Samples Typical Source

CONTAMINANTS Achieved
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Total Coliform Bacteria (%)	Yes	0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	Yes	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS			Highest LRAA		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	NA	60	25.95 (Range 19.20-25.95)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	NA	80	59.00 (Range 27.30-59.00)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Monitoring Period 2023
Location Running Annual Average (LRAA) results

Total Trihalomethane Monitoring Results (in ppb)	Location	1st Quarter 2023	2nd Quarter 2023	3rd Quarter 2023	4th Quarter 2023
Site 1 Quarterly Results	459 Passaic Avenue	46.10	51.20	66.10	34.00
Site 1 - LRAA*		48.40	53.40	55.10	49.30
Site 2 Quarterly Results	61 McKinley Avenue	43.20	50.20	57.20	32.70
Site 2 - LRAA*		46.40	50.10	50.40	45.80
Site 3 Quarterly Results	30 Clinton Road	45.10	50.00	49.90	31.90
Site 3 - LRAA*		45.30	49.30	50.00	44.20
Site 4 Quarterly Results	42 Fairfield Place	49.80	63.50	66.60	43.00
Site 4 - LRAA*		51.40	55.40	57.40	55.70

*Reported LRAA for quarters 1-3 are based on results from previous quarters not reported on this table.

DISINFECTANTS

Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.94 (Range 0.54-1.94)	Highest Result Water additive used to control microbes.
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LEAD AND COPPER

Copper (ppm)	Yes	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	
		1.3	1.3	0.072	(2021 data)

DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - UCMR3 DATA

Lead (ppb)	Yes	0	15	0.77	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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A Sure Safe Supply

The Township of West Caldwell bulk purchases our water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Passaic Valley Water Commission's (PVWC) Little Falls Water Treatment Plant treats surface water diverted from the Passaic and Pompton rivers or Point View Reservoir. Treated water is then blended with treated water obtained from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's (NJDWSC) Treatment Plant. Water is then pumped through underground pipes to West Caldwell. Emergency interconnections with other water purveyors exist throughout the distribution system. The Township of West Caldwell Water Department is committed to providing our customers a safe, sure supply of water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Does West Caldwell test for asbestos?

Under a waiver issued by the State (NJDEP), the Township of West Caldwell does not have to monitor for asbestos because the State has determined that West Caldwell's system is not considered susceptible to asbestos contamination. The State has determined that monitoring and testing for asbestos is not required at this time.

Source Water Assessment

NJDEP has prepared the Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002) and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) (PWS ID

1613001) can be found online at the NJDEP's source water assessment website- <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

Intake Susceptibility Rating								
Sources	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC Surface Water (4 intakes)	(4) High	(4) High	(1) Medium (3) Low	(4) Medium	(4) High	(4) Low	(4) Low	(4) High
NJDWSC (5 intakes)	(5) High	(5) High	(2) Medium (3) Low	(5) Medium	(5) High	(5) Low	(5) Low	(5) High

2023 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Secondary Parameters

Contaminant	NJ Recommended Limit (RUL) Upper	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved?	Range of Results	RUL Achieved?

Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS]/Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	500	70 – 130	YES	<50.0	YES
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	50.0 – 57.5	N/A	40.0	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	13.8 – 21.2	YES	37.3	YES
Chloride (ppm)	250	66.2 – 103.6	YES	52.2	YES
Color (color units)	<10	<5	YES	2.0	YES
Copper (ppm)	<1	ND	YES	0.015	YES
Hardness, CaCO3 (ppm)	250	84 - 100	YES	70.0	YES
Iron (ppb)	300	<100	YES	<200	YES
Manganese (ppb)*	50	9.9 – 17.7	YES	17.7	YES
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	7.0 – 14.0	NO	<1.00	YES
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	7.84 – 8.20	YES	8.15	YES
Sodium (ppm)	50	50.2 – 81.1	NO ²	33.0	YES
Sulfate (ppm)	250	44.1 – 59.3	YES	8.11	YES
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	203.5 – 327.5	YES	79.0	YES
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.4 – 22.8	YES	<10	YES

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (UCMR5 2023 DATA)

	MCL	MCLG	RANGE	Highest	Average	Source
PFOA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0083	0.0083	0.0079	N/A
PFOS (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0055	0.0055	0.0052	N/A
PFPeA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 – 0.0067	0.0067	0.0053	N/A
PFHxA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 – 0.0062	0.0062	0.0050	N/A
PFBA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 – 0.0051	0.0051	0.0050	N/A

* - The recommended upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient, and toxicity is not expected from high levels which would not be encountered in drinking water.

** - "PVWC's finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL). Possible sources of sodium include natural soil runoff, roadway salt runoff, upstream wastewater treatment plants, and a contribution coming from chemicals used in the water treatment process. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are viable or capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps.

Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

PVWC regularly samples source water for *Cryptosporidium* and Giardia. The data collected in 2022 is presented in the table above.

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring		
Contaminant	Results for PVWC Plant Intake	Typical source
Cryptosporidium (Oocysts/L)	ND – 0.19	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
Giardia (Cysts/L)	ND – 0.47	

ADDITIONAL PVWC TREATMENT PLAN MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	Test results presented in this table were collected in 2022 to monitor the occurrence of emerging contaminants. There are currently no EPA drinking water standards for these contaminants.
	Results	
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System		
Chlorate (ppb)	149.8 – 283.0	
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	<0.07	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	<1.83 – 3.61	PVWC monitors for the presence of perfluorochemicals in source water and finished drinking water monthly mailto: drehbein@westcaldwell.com
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHp/A] (ppt)	<1.84 – 3.1	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	<1.84 – 3.49	
Perfluorohexanoic [PFHxA] (ppt)	2.87 – 10.6	

Detected Substances

Your water was tested for more than 178 substances. As you can see from our water quality tables on the preceding page, the amounts we found were less than the amounts allowed by the EPA. Listed below is information that may be of special interest to our customers.

What about bottled water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

So, what's the bottom line? If bottled and tap water meet the Federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water costs less than one penny per gallon and is substantially less expensive than bottled water. Additionally, tap water is always available in your own home.

Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. West Caldwell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. Call us at 973-226-2300 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. *Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).*

DEFINITIONS of TERMS and ACRONYMS

ABS/LAS - Alkylbenzene Sulfonate and Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate (surfactants).

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Disinfection By-product Precursors - A common source is naturally occurring organic material in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (DBP precursors) present in surface water.

Location Running Annual Average (LRAA) - The annual average taken from the present month going back twelve months for a specific location.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allowed for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Primary Standards - Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

PWS ID - Public Water System identification.

Radioactive Contaminants/Radionuclides - Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made may be present in source water naturally or as a result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Examples include radium, radon and uranium.

Radon - Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

RUL Achieved - A "YES" entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was not exceeded. A "NO" entry indicates that State recommended upper limit was exceeded.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - The annual average taken from the present month going back twelve months.

Secondary Standards - Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor, and appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.